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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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**THE** Security Council debate that Jordan has demanded over the ammunition-less guns and tanks in the independence COMPLAINING. Day parade is patently absurd. It is absurd because nobody will assemble valuable material in an exposed situation, call together some hundreds of thousands of spectators, including perhaps 10,000 foreign tourists, in order then to start off a border incident.

Formally speaking, it is a breach of the Armistice Agreement, and that is why detailed notification was sent to the U.N. and to Jordan through U.N. offices, in order that there might not be even the shadow of a misunderstanding. In Arab politics, to protest with enough noise against a military parade may be made to seem as vital as to fight and destroy the guns. But Hussein is in no position to be a formalist over the Agreements, for he has himself failed to keep their important provisions. Has he "progressed" towards peace? Does he give us access to the Western Wall in the Old City? Has he complied with any other provision, except those that can be enforced by Israeli arms? The Armistice Agreement still exists only because there is no new instrument to replace it. It is perhaps natural that King Hussein of Jordan should wish to make a splash in the Arab political arena now that he has at long last yielded to Nasser's intolerable pressure. But this does not apply to the U.N. representatives here. During a similar argument three years ago, in connection with the Tenth Anniversary parade, the U.N. chairman obtained on a similar protest by Jordan. No good reason has been produced for the U.N. vote with the Jordanians on this occasion. Can the U.N. be so paper-bound as not to see that a grotesque debate on the dangers of a parade in Jerusalem while the Congo sinks into anarchy and Laos totters will make a mockery of the Council?

There is also our own end of the affair to consider. It would probably have been wiser not to have publicized the weapons to be shown quite so widely, and certainly not so far ahead of the date of the parade. With almost four weeks in which to consider how they could cause a maximum of trouble, the Jordanians could scarcely fail. Should "Bamahane," the Army weekly, have produced its picture story when it did, ten days ago? Should there have been a tender to accept "harmless" Jordan breaches of agreements silently, in the hope that they will automatically create precedents. Little was said when King Hussein brought heavy armaments and planes to the Old City to mark the visit of the late King Mohammed of Morocco. Had these details been put on the U.N. record explicitly and in detail at that time, it would be harder for Jordan to make its complaint acceptable now. Experience has shown often enough that the U.N., whose business it should be to keep the accounts balanced in these matters, acts as though it were born anew each day, and all previous happenings had been expunged from its collective brain.

The present protest is not significant, and will presumably involve no more than much diplomatic coming and going. But it might be useful to recall that, for instance, the Jordanians are at the present moment diverting the Yarmuk river away from Israel territory and will shortly deprive half a million kibbutzim of their water supply.

## Nehru Says Gurkhas Would Fight in Congo

Prime Minister Nehru gave tacit approval in New Delhi yesterday to the use of Indian troops "in factional fights among Congolese to bring about law and order."

Mr. Nehru added, "If necessary, our people might have to fight mercenaries such as Belgians and others leading Congolese troops." The Premier hinted to Parliament that keeping a combat brigade of Indians in the Congo might depend on the continuation of the U.N. representative, Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal, there. Mr. Dayal is an Indian.

Mr. Nehru said it was "rather distressing" that there was a campaign against Mr. Dayal who represents Secretary-General Hammarskjöld. He did not specify who was conducting the campaign, but Indian journalists in Leopoldville and New York have reported that Western nations are leading an effort to have Mr. Dayal removed.

"His removal would mean a new balance being created against implementation of the Security Council resolution," Mr. Nehru said. It "may have some effect on maintaining our forces there." In the Congo yesterday, the U.N. was completing the airlift of nearly 1,000 Gurkha troops to Kamina, a sprawling military base in Katanga, in defiance of a warning by the Katanga leader, Mr. Moïse Tshombe, that the move could mean war.

As his troops settled into their new quarters, the commander, Lieutenant-Colonel S.S. Malita, warned his regiment would brook no interference with their U.N. duties. Meanwhile reports from Elisabethville, capital of Katanga, said 23 white South Africans — said to be "officer material" — have arrived there on a Belgian Boeing jet from Johannesburg to join the Katanga army's white mercenary force.

Unlike the previous arrivals, they were well groomed and well mannered. Most wore dark suits and all refused to speak to the press. (AP)

## U.S. Queries Cuban Halting of Ship

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. has asked Switzerland to demand a full explanation from the Cuban Government for a Cuban gunboat's interception of an American ship last Saturday.

The vessel, the cable-laying ship Western Union, was released some six hours after it was intercepted near the Cuban port of Baracoa. State Department Press Officer Lincoln White said the Swiss Embassy in Havana has been asked to demand on our behalf a full explanation from the Cuban Government for this harassment of the high seas of a U.S. registered vessel.

There has been no reply as yet from the Swiss Embassy. In Guantanamo Bay, U.S. naval authorities said the Western Union was intercepted by a Cuban gunboat and then freed after U.S. jet planes and a destroyer went to her assistance.

It seems that one source of error is our tendency to accept "harmless" Jordan breaches of agreements silently, in the hope that they will automatically create precedents. Little was said when King Hussein brought heavy armaments and planes to the Old City to mark the visit of the late King Mohammed of Morocco. Had these details been put on the U.N. record explicitly and in detail at that time, it would be harder for Jordan to make its complaint acceptable now. Experience has shown often enough that the U.N., whose business it should be to keep the accounts balanced in these matters, acts as though it were born anew each day, and all previous happenings had been expunged from its collective brain.

on matzot  
MILK MARGARINE  
RICH IN VITAMINS A & D  
שמן לבנה

## Laos Right-Wing Regime Favours Soviet Proposals

VIENTIANE. — General Phoumi Nosavan, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister in the right-wing Laotian Government, which is not recognized by the USSR, has expressed almost complete agreement with the Soviet peace plan for Laos.

He told reporters here on his return from a visit to the royal capital of Luang Prabang Sunday that Russia's proposals "coincide with the views of the Royal Government. It can almost be said that they are an expression of our own opinion."

Commenting on the question of a cease-fire — which Britain regards as a vital first step but on which Russia is vague — the General said it could be achieved only by the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos.

Information Minister Bouvan Nosavan said the Laotian Government would be willing to halt U.S. aid if Russia would stop its airlift and other arms supplies to the Pathet Lao.

"Without foreign intervention there would be no war here," he added.

The apparent acceptance by the right-wing regime of Prince Boun Oum of the Soviet proposal for a 14-nation conference on Laos in the near future shows a radical change in the Government's thinking.

It had maintained that any advantages such a conference might offer would be more than outweighed by the propaganda possibilities it would offer the Chinese Communists, who would be represented at the conference.

In Moscow, meanwhile, Sir Frank Roberts, the British Ambassador, called at the Foreign Ministry to discuss the Soviet peace plan. Sir Frank met Mr. Vasily Kuznetsov, First Deputy Foreign Minister, in what is (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

## Hiker Wounded by Fire Near Ein Gedi

JERUSALEM Post Reporter. — A hiker from Kfar Yona was shot and seriously wounded at 9.30 a.m. yesterday by a bullet which police are convinced was fired from Jordanian territory. No other group of hikers was in the vicinity at the time.

The victim, Mr. Amos Meisla, 25, was in charge of the group of hikers from the Scouts movement which was climbing Ma'aleh Ha'Issiyim, 4 kms. west of Ein Gedi.

Mr. Meisla, who was last in the line of climbers to round up stragglers, said that all he could remember was that something hit him and he lost consciousness.

The bullet passed through his lungs, stomach and spleen. He was given first aid in Kibbutz Ein Gedi, and from there was flown by helicopter to the Beersheba Kupat Holim Hospital, where he was operated on twice in the afternoon. He is still on the danger list.

## COUVE DE MURVILLE MEETS WITH NEHRU

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville, conferred for two hours here yesterday with Premier Nehru.

## All-Africa Parley for Monrovia

MONROVIA (Reuters). — Nearly all heads of African states are expected to attend the first top-level all-African conference on May 8.

Originally, it was intended that the conference should take place here, but later Lagos was suggested as an alternative meeting place. Differences have now been largely overcome and agreement reached for holding it here. It is understood that invitations are expected to be issued soon by the seven sponsoring states — Cameroun, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Togo.

Only South Africa will not be invited, it is believed here. Conciliatory rules may be invited as political leaders with a view to solving their differences, rather than as heads of state. It is intended that the conference should figure prominently in the discussions.

The conference is expected to discuss all African problems and try to reconcile the views of the Casablanca group with those of pro-Western and uncommitted countries. Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Libya, the UAR and Ceylon were represented at the four-day African conference in Casablanca in January. They agreed then to set up an African Joint Command and to withdraw their troops from the Congo, but Ceylon later changed its mind.

CHEN YI CONFERS WITH U NU  
HONG KONG (UPI). — Communist Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi yesterday visited Burmese Premier U Nu in Rangoon on his way back from Indonesia, the New China News Agency reported.

## JFK to Meet de Gaulle in May; FLN: Evian Talks Still Possible

### Rebels Urge French 'Goodwill' U.S. President to Visit Paris

TUNIS. — The "Algerian Provisional Government's" Information Minister, Mohammed Yazid, said here last night that the peace talks with France at Evian could still open as scheduled on Friday if the French Government showed "goodwill."

### 6th Terror Victim In Paris Area

PARIS (Reuters). — A band of Algerians in a suburb north-east of Paris yesterday shot and killed the young son of the owner of a cafe. The killing was the sixth in the Paris area since Saturday, attributed to clashes between rival Moslem nationalist groups or between Moslems and Moslem police.

### SENEGAL MARKS 1ST ANNIVERSARY

DAKAR (Reuters). — President Leopold Senghor of Senegal yesterday received foreign delegates here for the first anniversary celebrations of the republic's independence. More than 45 delegations filed through the Presidential Palace between a double row of guards in silver-uniformed, their sabres drawn.

Among them were U.S. Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Jacob Malik, and the Aga Khan, as well as several African heads of state.

Israel's representative is Deputy Defence Minister Shimon Peres.

### AFTER MIDNIGHT

The Tunisian news agency said last night President Bourguiba has appointed to Messali Hadj, NVA leader, to quit the political scene to avoid being the last obstacle to the liberation of Algeria.

President Kennedy will fly to Paris on May 31 for three days of talks with President de Gaulle, the U.S. and French Governments simultaneously announced yesterday.

The announcements, made in Paris and in Mr. Kennedy's vacation headquarters in Palm Beach, Florida, said he will be accompanied by his wife, Jacqueline.

In reply to questions, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger told a news conference that at this time he knows of no plans for Mr. Kennedy to visit other European capitals in connection with the Paris trip.

The visit will be Mr. Kennedy's first trip out of North America as President. However, he will go to Canada before going to France. Plans for a trip to Ottawa to address the Canadian Parliament were announced earlier. Indications now are that Mr. Kennedy will go to Ottawa perhaps two weeks before visiting Paris.

### Complete Round

Mr. Kennedy's talks with Gen. de Gaulle, whom he has never met, will complete a round of conversations with the Big Three leaders of Western Europe.

The President met eight days ago at Key West, Florida, with Britain's Prime Minister Harold Macmillan for discussion of the Laos crisis. They will resume their talks on this and other problems in Washington tomorrow.

West Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer will be in Washington from April 11-12 for conferences with Mr. Kennedy.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

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# Twilight in South Africa

Atmosphere Resembles that of Weimar Germany in 1933

By ANDREW WILSON

**DURBAN (OPENS).** — WITH a blind conviction cannot go on like this for ever and that each step in the darkness is a step to the ultimate light, the mood of South Africa's liberal Europeans and 13 million voters "others" were ecstatically between hope and despair. Less than a month after South Africa's break with the Commonwealth they fasten their hope where they can. On Mr. Macmillan's speech in Parliament which "definitely condemned apartheid and destroyed Dr. Verwoerd's pretence of triumph. On the chance of a split among the Nationalists. On the possibility of a Nationalist-United Party coalition, which would kick Dr. Verwoerd upstairs into the Presidency and undo a few of the worst racial follies.

## Nightmare into Truth

But the despair is real and abundant with the knowledge that what has seemed a nightmare is now the truth. It started the day Dr. Verwoerd returned from London and the liberal Black South women's organization held a protest in Johannesburg. A group of young men turned on African bystanders and brutally attacked them. They followed the Black South women, swearing at them and spitting. The police — apart from one young constable — did nothing to protect the Africans. An English-speaking man who intervened to protect the women was surrounded by the crowd. He said he was an ex-soldier who had fought for South Africa. According to eye-witnesses, one man screamed at him: "Well, this is my country now. This is my street. Get off my street."

The same day the Government swooped on the organizers of an orderly, very moderate conference. Africans were demanded a "national convention" at which the Government would discuss their grievances. Of the eight arrested, two were clergymen (one a member of the staid Progressive Party, one an African businessman, a liberal capitalist) and three were liberal anti-Communists. They were charged under the Prevention of Communism Act with "furthering Communist purposes" and their case will be heard in the next week or so.

The following day under the same Act, the Government served an order on the strongly anti-Communist newspaper "Contact". Mr. Patrick Duncan, banning him from political activity for five years. Half a dozen students were also arrested for peacefully demonstrating against the Nationalists in Cape Town.

The next day the Nederdutch Hervormde Kerk, the smallest and most intolerant of the three Dutch Reformed Churches, severed its connection with the outside world by withdrawing from the World Council of Churches. This group, which has a membership of 250,000, also warned Professor Geyser of Pretoria University that if he publicly queries his church's colour policy again, he will be unfrocked.

At the African conference, which took place despite the arrests and the swarming presence of police cars and plainclothesmen in a suburb of Pietermaritzburg, an African speaker was able to get up and call, amid vast applause, for a vote of thanks to "the democratic countries of the world" who

had caused his country to be "thrown like a polecat out of the largest group of civilized nations in the world." "It was worth making that speech, if it puts me five years in jail," he said afterwards.

Such was the bitterness, almost desperation, which infused this meeting and marked the 1200 faces beneath the lights and windows of the overcrowded hall as the conference went into the night and the long after dawn. The delegates had come from 400 and 500 miles away, travelling night and day and having to return to work by Monday.

While they waited for the conference to begin the first hall had been wired by the police for rebroadcasting, but they stayed as a "cover" for the all-important meeting of the steering committee elsewhere, where they sang songs and single angry phrases like "Verwoerd, the black man will get you repeated with endless variations by rows of women, some in the black frocks and chic white hats of the former African National Congress Women's League, others in headscarves and dresses from the tribal reserves. It was something between a choir of the Welsh Rhondda and the singing of American Negroes in the slave days of the South.

But what will all this bitterness, despair and dedication avail? Public Silent Behind the thrust of the Parliamentary scene down in Cape Town, here in Durban the appalling feature of the unmovable public silence and this in the traditionally "English" "loyalist" province of Natal.

There were no black snakes out in Durban. What protesters have been largely round the economic preferences which may be lost through Dr. Verwoerd's withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

The English crowds on the Sunday surf beaches, the lounges of the sea-front hotels betrayed nothing of the crisis which is facing South Africa — a crisis which is sorely like that facing Weimar Germany in 1933.

Is it that the expended "protest" during the referendum on the Republic? Is it that their horizon extends no further than the trade question — that they have no answer to the Nationalists on the deep moral and racial issues? Or is it simply that they have been "taken in"?

One meets hardly a liberal in Natal, or for that matter in Johannesburg, who does not affirm that at the next general election the Nationalist vote will have greatly increased. It has mounted from about 40 per cent at the last election to 60 per cent at the referendum, and now 80 per cent is gleefully predicted. The prediction is made in spite of a vigorous Opposition Press (all English-language newspapers are actively anti-Verwoerd, except the right-wing Argus group) and the hammering the Nationalists have had in Parliament. What is the explanation?

Apart from a general lethargy, one reason is certainly the assiduous propaganda of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, which — in face of all the evidence — has continued to present Dr. Verwoerd's break with the Commonwealth as a "victory." The deception, delivered in the English service with tones and formulae copied from the BBC in London, is massive and complete. And it is from the radio rather than the newspapers that English-speaking South Africans, particularly the women, get their news.

## "Too Late"

But a liberal South African newspaperman put another side "You know," he said, "I think the Press has been its own executioner. For years we have printed the statements and policy speeches of the Nationalist leaders in full because they were so patently stupid and we felt that the readers must get a good laugh out of them. But suddenly we realize that the public has come to take them seriously and swallow them. Now it may be too late."

"Too late" occurs often in conversation. The same man — an ordinary workday journalist without any political axe to grind — thought Press censorship was likely to come in about "four to six months." Another journalist, an editor, thought it would not be long before the United Party, the official Opposition, would discover "too late" that it too, was on the list for suppression and arrest.

The middle-class liberals, people who in England would reject State socialism and stand possibly in the Conservative Party, say openly that it is now too late to stop the process of deterioration.

IN MEMORIAM: Prof. Dr. H. I. WATERMAN

## Pioneer of Chemical Engineering

PROFESSOR Dr. H. I. Waterman, an outstanding personality and a great friend of Israel, passed away in Delft, Holland, recently. Born in Arnhem in 1889, son of a well-known Jewish family, he studied chemical engineering at Delft, receiving his doctor's degree with honours in 1913. Before he was 30 he was appointed full professor at Delft to fill the chair of Chemical Technology.

He published six books and 300 articles and papers. Sixty-two patents carry his name; 533 students got their degrees in engineering and 65 engineers their doctor's degrees under his guidance. No wonder that he is considered one of the founders of the chemical industry in Holland. Waterman, honorary member of several societies such as the Institute of Petroleum Technologists and the Société de Chimie Industrielle, was honoured by several institutes. The Dutch Government rewarded his services by awarding him "one of its highest orders."

A member of the Netherlands Zionist Student Organization (N.Z.S.) after graduation, in 1927 he wrote a paper on the "Synthetic Preparation of Petroleum" for the Journal of the Association of Engineers and Architects of Palestine, and in 1933 he invested in one of the first chemical industries in Palestine, established by one of his pupils. One of his last activities in 1940 was to take part in the Dutch delegation to the Paris Conference called by Dr. Nahum Goldmann to discuss the situation of the Jews in Eastern countries.

Many have put up "For Sale" notices on their houses and are planning emigration rather than face the day when they will be conscripted in the national "defence force" against African revolt.

For them the tragedy is stark and deep. South Africa is their home of generations. They must now uproot themselves, weighing whether to go this year or next as the Jews under Hitler did, before the removal of property became impossible. They also face the moral dilemma of deciding whether to desert the Africans — workers or servants — with whom they have shared the dangers and difficulties up to date.

Nevertheless, they will go. Overseas, the parallel with Germany of the thirties has something of an academic ring. It is only in the Union itself that one comes up against the reality and the ghastly landscape, in which through the gloom, one suddenly recognizes the features and pointers to destruction: the weak and enervated electoral opposition; the outlawry of liberalism — classed with Communism as a State offence; the personality cult of Verwoerd — a "father figure" far more promising than Hitler ever was; the teen-age gangs; the political grip of the Broederbond; the adaptation of a once fine army into an internal security force.

It soon shines as brightly as the sun in the tourist posters, the surf breaks white on Durban Bay, but dusk is coming and the lights of freedom, which never burned very strongly, are guttering in the wind.

## Off to the Technical Aid



Cyprus is lawless because of legislative difficulties (From the Press)

By arrangement with "Maariv"

## YESTERDAY'S PRESS

### HUSSEIN and NASSER

HUSSEIN's attempt to gain popularity with the masses by a rapprochement with Nasser is likely to end in failure, writes Haluker (General Zionist), for the Jordanian population's frenzied acclamations of the UAR ruler, once let loose, will only be stopped by martial law and fresh arrests unless Hussein agrees to become Nasser's vassal, which he will not.

Harari (non-party) writes that Hussein is well aware that Nasser is handing out "Nationalist Fitness" certificates to Arab rulers for a price. The question is whether Hussein is prepared to pay the full price for such a certificate. The future of his crown may depend upon his decision. In the view of Al Hamishmar (Mappam), Nasser, who has unsuccessfully attempted to unseat Hussein by devious means, will not refuse now to accept the young king's submission to the UAR's dictate and will even be prepared to tolerate his continued reign so long as he subscribes to the basic determination to destroy Israel.

Herut observes that Hussein is trying to show his patriotism by whipping up excitement over the Israel Independence Day parade by demonstrating his concern for Arab interests. He knows that the armed police, which will constitute no threat to Jordan; yet, he intends to go

as far as the Security Council with his complaint. It is certain that Israel will neither panic at this war of nerves nor heed friendly advice "not to anger her neighbours." For by heeding such advice she will only encourage the trouble-makers to make further demands.

Hamodia (World Aguda) writes that the Security Council, which has failed to bring peace to the Congo, did not dare to intervene in Hungary and does not dare to intervene in Laos and other troubled areas, will try to put all its weight on the side of "protecting Jerusalem" from a danger existing only in the sickly imagination of Arab rulers who fear their own shadows.

Hatzofe (National Religious) feels sure that the Security Council will see through the superficiality of the Jordanian demonstrations against the "impending danger" and understand that the Arab rulers are just another aspect of Hussein's fresh flirtation with Nasser.

The same paper dwells on the case of the 11-year-old gang leader just caught in Jerusalem after committing burglary and asks why such youngsters are not kept in school.

## Readers' Letters

### "THE AFFAIR"

Editor, The Jerusalem Post Sir, — The authors of "The Affair" (J.P. March 31) seem to me to have gone to too much trouble over the translation of a passage in their book which to my mind is historically quite worthless: whether the word is "paralyzed" or "subjoined" (only a fine academic mind could have dug out that one!); the truth of your inference from the authors' statement is beyond dispute. Your leader writer was of course wrong in implying that the authors of "Haparasah" were the first of Mr. Lavon's supporters to assert that his was not a campaign for mere personal rehabilitation but, part of a naked struggle for power. Mr. Lavon had himself asserted, before the findings of the Seven-Man Ministerial "reconciliation" Committee, that the regime had for long been "interview" in "Davar," that the "affair" formally ceased to concern the question as to who did or did not give the order for the 1964 security mishap.

It seems to me that the true implications of this turn in the "affair" have not yet been fully realized by Mapai. Those who appear as defenders of Mr. Lavon are no more interested in the rights and wrongs of the case than Lavon himself. In fact, most of them would admit in private conversation that it is not Lavon's ideology or his programme, if such there be, that interest them, but the prospect of weakening a regime which they fear for their various reasons oppose. Since this regime has for long been identified with Mapai, the real object of the campaign is that party itself. I submit that both Mr. Lavon and Mr. Ben-Gurion are called upon to draw relevant conclusions from this state of affairs. And I would add, that the sooner they did this the better for all concerned.

Yours, etc. "ONLOOKER" (Name and Address Supplied) Tel Aviv, March 31.

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### BEVERAGE PRICES

Editor, The Jerusalem Post Sir, — At his Press Conference in Jerusalem Mr. Shafar, Revenue Commissioner of Inland Revenue, stated that the latest tax increase on certain products should not be reflected in an increase of prices to the consumer because the producer alone should absorb the differences resulting from the rise in tax.

The public at large, which does not know the calculations, may take these words at their face value but they are wrong. For example, let us take one kind of drink, the price of which is IL7.5 a bottle to the wholesaler. Ninety-three per cent of this amount is made up of the cost of alcohol and excise tax. Other ingredients, packaging, transport, company expenses (including wages) and producer's profits must all be included in the remaining seven per cent.

Where then is there room for an additional tax of about 20 agorot without increasing the price? Yours, etc. PERETZ & COMPANY Factory for Alcoholic Beverages Ness Ziona, February 2.

Treasury Replies. Peretz and Company quote an extreme example which is representative of the profits of the beverage industry. It is true that profits on arak are low but arak accounts for less than 30 per cent of the turnover of producers of alcoholic beverages.

If we take a bottle of brandy of 750 ml, the price of which is IL7.48, we would find that the share of the producer and the distributors comes to about 50 per cent, the share of the producers on a bottle of liquor of 630 ml, whose price to the consumer is IL3.30, comes to about 55 per cent. Even if we should use Peretz and Company's calculation system we will find that about 33 per cent of the wholesale price of the same bottle of brandy, after deducting the excise and the price of the alcohol, goes to

## MARGINAL COMMENT

### WORDS and THINGS

By Nissim Rejman

THE tempo with which the great Amman-Cairo reconciliation is proceeding has given rise to a good deal of surprise. That Nasser and Hussein should at all be on speaking terms again sounds improbable enough, but that Hussein should without much ceremony describe himself as Nasser's "devoted brother" and the latter hit back with "your faithful brother" seems a little too taxing on one's credulity. After all, it was not long ago that Nasser used to call Hussein an imperialist stooge, a lackey, a dwarf, a torturer and a liar, while the Jordanian monarch lavished on him such choice adjectives as murderer, usurper and little Pharaoh. For these two to sit together again and talk of solidarity and cooperation would involve — in the words of one Western observer writing in a sir ar context — "an exercise in collective and voluntary amnesia which it would be hard to expect from more saintly men."

HOW is one to explain this difficult exercise? There is of course one tempting explanation which naturally springs to mind at first glance — i.e. that the Arabs are fundamentally insincere and do not always mean what they say. But this seems too easy and too arbitrary an explanation to take really seriously and, what is more, it is anyway hard to come by a politician who is quite sincere.

A theory which may well be acceptable as a basis for discussion has been furnished by a Briton with some experience of the Arab mind. Writing in "The Spectator" of January 27, 1961, apropos the Arab "Foreign Ministers' meeting" in Baghdad, Mr. Michael Adams, the "Guardian's" Middle East Correspondent, points out that this forgetfulness on the Arab leaders' part affords an insight into "the strange dream world of Arab politics, which is in itself a projection of the Arab's whole cast of thought."

ADAMS goes on to explain: "Facts have for the Arab mentality only a limited and temporary significance; they are powerless in competition with ideas — and ideas the Arab imagination seizes upon emotionally and through a kind of intuition which the opposition of hard facts cannot shake." This judgment, he suggests, "provides the only framework within which the constant disparity between Arab words and Arab deeds can be explained," and he proceeds to list the main ideas which in his view occupy the

Arab mind today. The central idea is Arab unity, which has "a compelling significance for nearly all Arabs," and the principal subsidiary ideas are anti-imperialism, hostility to Israel and the concept of social revolution.

Mr. Adams argues that if we ignore the facts and concentrate upon these ideas, "everything becomes clearer." As an example, he explains that this combination of ideas provides the background against which the Arabs now view their latest preoccupation — Africa.

WELL, it really depends what you call "ideas." It is obvious that Mr. Adams is using the term in a rather loose and liberal sort of way and it is therefore difficult not to agree with him. Used in this loose sense, preoccupation with ideas must be linked with the Arabs' traditional tendency towards the poetic, which has recently been described by a Lebanese writer, Elie Salem, as "the most dangerous element in our civilization." Poetry, he points out, being a product of the imagination, "does not necessarily cater to seriousness, hardness and objective truth, and it often is non-rational." Nevertheless, "the poetic element is still dominant in Arab life. Every important political gathering is addressed and stirred by a poet... The general attitude of Arab leaders to the Palestine question was poetic, i.e., pretension without knowledge, promise without preparation..."

PURSuing Salem's thesis a little further, we find that one of the main causes for this preoccupation with the abstract, the poetic and the ornamental lies in the nature of the Arabic language itself. This language "lends itself to poetry, colour, praise, and the like, and is extremely rich. Its magic drives the writer away from precision. There is a profound connection between language and the operation of the mind and when the latter is not thoroughly disciplined in logic, the former tends to dominate." Thus, under the impress of a great and rich language like Arabic, and not always thoroughly disciplined in logic, "the Arab mind... tends to operate in a peculiar manner that lends itself to imagination." It is sufficient to listen to the text of King Hussein's epistle to Nasser read over Amman Radio, in order to realize how valid this part of Salem's argument really is. Tel Aviv, April 4.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Owing to the holiday, sale of Payis tickets will stop early Thursday morning and the drawing will be held at 11 a.m.

The last tickets will be on sale till the beginning of the drawing at the Mifal Hapayis Building, Rehov Hatzmait, Tel Aviv.

## מפתח הפיס

A. MANDEL, Inland Revenue Treasury Jerusalem, March 21.

Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality Department for Education and Culture

Ministry of Education and Culture Department of Education for Adults

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